



MAR 15 2000

Olympia Office:
115D Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98504-0482
(360) 786-7612
FAX: (360) 786-7819

Washington State Senate

Senator Bob Morton
7th Legislative District

District Office:
3278 Pierre Lake Rd.
Kettle Falls, WA 99141
(509) 684-5132

February 16, 2000

Brig. General Carl A. Strock
Commander and Division Engineer
220 NW 8th Avenue
PO Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Dear Brig. General Strock:

I write to express my appreciation for the conducting of this public hearing and apologize that I am unable to attend due to session and voting responsibilities here in Olympia.

1 I believe it is imperative that before the dams of the Snake are breached, that more scientific data be gathered, especially in reviewing the Pacific Northwest Decadal Cycle of the warming and cooling temperatures and currents of the Pacific Northwest coastal waters. Recent review of this scientific data reveals that we have been in a warming cycle, which traditionally has caused the downturn in the northwest salmon populations. These 20-30 year historical cycles would indicate that we are now heading into a cooler cycle, which will result in an upturn in northwest salmon populations.

2 I also feel it is of the utmost importance that we address the known predation of the salmon populations. For example, we must address the situation at Rice Island in the mouth of the Columbia River where it is known that up to 30 percent of the total population of salmon smolt is consumed by Caspian Terns and cormorants.

Of course, the breaching of the dams would also negatively impact our northwest economy and transportation system.

Thank you for your attention in these serious matters.

Cordially yours,

BOB MORTON
State Senator